

Message Text

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11
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-13 /080 W
----- 018327

R 080107Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9925
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 13667

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEAN, RP
SUBJECT: GOP NEGOTIATIONS WITH MNLF

REF: MANILA 13153

1. DURING SEPT 1 CALL ON GOP AMBASSADOR TO ALGIERS
PACIFICO CASTRO, EMBOFFS SOUNDED HIM OUT ON GOP PLANS FOR
MEETING WITH MNLF REPS IN TRIPOLI (REFTEL). CASTRO CHOSE NOT TO
REPLY TO QUESTION AS TO WHEN MEETING MIGHT TAKE PLACE. HE WAS
EXTREMELY NEGATIVE ON NEGOTIATING WITH "SO-CALLED REPS OF THE
MNLF," ARGUING IT WAS INAPPROPRIATE TO NEGOTIATE WITH REBELS ON
INTERNAL FILIPINO QUESTION OUTSIDE THE PHILIPPINES UNDER THE
AUSPICES OF A FOREIGN POWER OR ORGANIZATION. CASTRO, WHO WAS
MEMBER OF GOP DELEGATION (LED BY FORMER EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
MELCHOR) WHICH MET WITH MNLF IN JIDDA IN JANUARY 1975,
COMMENTED THAT SOME OF THE MNLF LEADERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN
THAT MEETING HAD RETURNED TO GOVERNMENT. CASTRO SEEMED TO BE
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SUGGESTING THAT THERE WAS NO ONE WHO REALLY SPOKE FOR MNLF.

2. COMMENT: CASTRO'S VIEWS ARE INTERESTING IN VIEW EARLIER EXPECTATION HERE (REFTEL) THAT TALKS WITH MNLF WILL RESUME IN TRIPOLI AFTER RAMADAN. CASTRO, WHO IS PROSPECTIVE SENIOR MEMBER OF GOP DELEGATION TO TRIPOLI SEEMED DECIDEDLY UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT RENEWAL OF THE TALKS. INDEED, HIS REACTION WAS STRONGLY SIMILAR TO MELCHOR'S WHO (LAST APRIL AT DINNER FOR CODEL FRASER) DESCRIBED EXPERIENCE OF HOLDING TALKS WITH REBEL ORGANIZATIONS IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY UNDER FOREIGN AUSPICES AS "HUMILIATING". CASTRO'S COMMENTS MAY SUGGEST SOME GOP RESERVATIONS ABOUT PROSPECTIVE TRIPOLI DISCUSSIONS ALTHOUGH THEY DO NOT MEAN TALKS WILL NOT TAKE PLACE.

3. SOME GOP CAUTION ALSO EVINced BY FORSEC ROMULO IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN SEPTEMBER 7. THE AMBASSADOR MENTIONED TO ROMULO THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE GOP PLANNED TO MEET WITH MNLF IN TRIPOLI IN NEAR FUTURE. ROMULO RESPONDED THAT NO DECISION HAD YET BEEN REACHED ON THIS MATTER. HE PLANNED TO MEET WITH THE LIBYAN FORMIN IN NEW YORK AFTER WHICH THE GOP WOULD DECIDE ON THE TRIPOLI MEETING.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANILA13667
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760338-0992
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760982/aaaacshx.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MANILA 13153
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <24 SEP 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOP NEGOTIATIONS WITH MNLF
TAGS: PFOR, RP, LY, ASEAN, MNLF, MORO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006